

**WILLMAR CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BUILDING**  
**WILLMAR, MINNESOTA**

October 20, 1999  
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Willmar City Council was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Lester Heitke. Members present on a roll call were Mayor Heitke, Council Members Verna Kelly, Denis Anderson, Ron Christianson, Bruce DeBlieck, Douglas Reese, Nancy Houlahan, Jim Dokken, and Rick Fagerlie; Present 9, Absent 0.

Also present were City Administrator Michael Schmit, City Attorney Richard Ronning, Public Works Director Mel Odens, Finance Director Steven Okins, Planning and Development Services Director Bruce Peterson, Police Chief Jim Kulset, and Administrative Assistant Audrey Peterson.

The Kandiyohi Area Transit Board Minutes of September 30, 1999, were removed from the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Kelly offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda, which included the following: City Council Minutes of October 6, Municipal Utilities Commission Minutes of October 12, Rice Hospital Board Minutes of October 13, Pioneerland Library Board Minutes of August 19, Housing and Redevelopment Authority Minutes of September 14, Zoning Appeals Board Minutes of October 4, Senior Citizens Council Minutes of October 6, Airport Commission Minutes of October 7, and Planning Commission Minutes of October 13, 1999. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion, which carried.

The Mayor and Council discussed the Kandiyohi Area Transit Board Minutes and requested staff to report back with clarification of the projected City contribution. Council Member Reese moved to accept the Kandiyohi Area Transit Board Minutes of September 9, 1999, with Council Member Kelly seconding the motion, which carried.

Mayor Heitke called on City Administrator Schmit to present findings from a study of the consolidation of the City's Park and Leisure Services Department with the School District's Community Education Department. Mr. Schmit thanked the Mayor, Council, and School Board for the opportunity to study the idea.

Steve Brisendine, Community Education Director, presented the results of the consolidation study. The proposal calls for Community Education and Parks and Leisure Services to be consolidated to form the Department of Community Education and Recreation (CER). The study suggests consolidation would result in better communication with leisure service providers, more streamlined process with a "One Stop Shop" for customers, all recreational offerings in one united catalog and avoid duplication of programs and staff. The current Advisory Board and Park and Leisure Services Board would be redesigned to form a new Joint Powers Board. Existing employees would remain employees for respective organizations, reporting to the CER Director. The CER Director's salary would be shared equally between the School District and City. The offices would consolidate and be housed at the Washington Learning Center.

Kathryn Leedom, Assist Superintendent of Willmar Schools, stated her administration supports the merger proposal, which will be presented to the School Board on October 27, 1999.

Dolf Moon, Park/Recreation and Community Education Director of Hutchinson, answered questions regarding a similar consolidation in Hutchinson.

Following questions, it was the consensus of the Council to accept the

report as information and wait until recommendations are received from the Park and Leisure Services Board before making a decision on the consolidation proposal.

Mayor Heitke called for a recess at 8:30 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Planning and Development Services Director Peterson informed the Mayor and Council that a petition has been filed for the annexation of land for an office/business development. The Planning Commission considered the matter and recommends the property be annexed as requested. Resolution No. 1 was introduced by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council member Dokken, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

WHEREAS, a Petition for Annexation (File #99-1) has been filed for the following described piece of property: the south 153 feet of the north 20 rods of the east 375 feet of the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 27, T119, R35

WHEREAS, the Petitions have certified and stated that they are all of the owners of said property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar that ownership of the aforescribed property, by the petitioners, in the manner stated has been verified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it has been verified that the Petition for Annexation includes not only the request to be annexed, but a request for City services/improvements/facilities/utilities.

Dated this 20th day of October, 1999.

/s/ Lester Heitke  
MAYOR

/s/ Michael Schmit  
Attest: CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Council Member Kelly offered a motion to schedule a hearing on November 3, 1999, to consider an Ordinance Extending the Corporate Limits of the City of Willmar. Council Member DeBlieck seconded the motion, which carried.

Planning and Development Services Director Peterson informed the Mayor and Council that Kandiyohi Power Cooperative has requested an electric line easement across City-owned property in east Willmar. The Planning Commission recommends the easement be granted. Following discussion, Council Member DeBlieck offered a motion to introduce an Ordinance Granting a Permanent Easement for Electrical Utility Line Purposes and to schedule a hearing for November 3, 1999. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion, which carried.

Planning and Development Services Director Peterson informed the Mayor and Council that bids were opened for the sale of a house located on the future airport land and only one bid was received. Staff was recommending the bid be rejected and the security returned. It was noted the Fire Department might be able to utilize the house for practice burn purposes. Staff was directed to contact Habit for Humanity prior to the burn to allow an opportunity for salvage.

Council Member Kelly moved to reject the bid and return the security to the bidder. Council Member Reese seconded the motion, which carried.

City Administrator Schmit presented to the Mayor and Council staff's

recommendation deferring special assessments for Project No. 9901 and 9902. Following discussion, Resolution No. 2 was introduced by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Kelly, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Willmar, Minnesota, did order the reconstruction of certain streets during the year 1999; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Sections 435.193 to 435.195 allows local governments making a special assessment to defer the payment of that assessment for any homestead property owned by a person 65 years of age or older or retired by virtue of a permanent and total disability; and

WHEREAS, certain property owners have made application to the City for delayed payment of tax on special assessments and have met the criteria contained in Minnesota Statutes for said deferment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Willmar City Council that special assessments as hereinafter designated be certified to the County and deferred for the years of 2000 through 2009 with interest at the annual rate of six and one-half (6.5%) percent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the option to defer payments will terminate and all deferred payments and interest become payable if a) the owner dies and the surviving spouse is not eligible; b) the property or a portion of the property is sold, transferred or subdivided; c) the property loses its homestead status; or d) the City determines that to require immediate or partial payment would not create a hardship. (Property owners' list on file in the City Clerk's Office)

Dated this 20th day of October, 1999.

/s/ Lester Heitke  
MAYOR

/s/ Michael Schmit  
Attest: CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Heitke informed the Council of a Citywide COPPS meeting regarding Y2K issues. City Administrator Schmit thanked Officer Marilee Dorn for organizing the meeting. The City is very much aware of Y2K issues and is prepared to deal with problems that may occur. It was noted City staff would be on duty over the New Year's weekend.

Announcements for Council Committee meeting dates were as follows: Public Works/Safety, October 25; Finance, October 26; Labor Relations, October 27; and Community Development, October 28, 1999.

Mayor Heitke read a letter from the Chamber of Commerce informing the community that Revenue Commissioner Matt Smith would be in Willmar on October 27, 1999. The role of the Office of Revenue, counties and cities will be discussed.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. upon motion by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member Kelly, and carried.

Attest:

MAYOR

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ACTING SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL